

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 4 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please add new claims 10-13.

Claim 1 (original): A polymer composite comprising keratin and at least one polymer.

Claim 2 (original): The polymer composite according to claim 1, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyamide, polyesters, polyvinyl chloride, polylactic acid, polyvinyl alcohol, polycaprolactone, polyhydroxy ester ether, polyhydroxybutyrate, polyhydroxyalkanoates, polystyrene, polycarbonate, polymethyl methacrylate, polybutadiene, polyisoprene, polyurethane, epoxies, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 3 (original): The polymer composite according to claim 1, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyamide, polyesters, polyvinyl chloride, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (original): The polymer composite according to claim 1, wherein said keratin is obtained from a source selected from the group consisting of hair, nail, hoof, horn, avian feathers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 6 (original): The polymer composite according to claim 1, wherein said keratin is obtained from avian feathers.

Claim 7 (original): The polymer composite according to claim 1, wherein said keratin is obtained from a source selected from the group consisting of avian feather fiber keratin, avian feather quill keratin, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (original): The polymer composite according to claim 1, wherein said keratin is obtained from avian feather fiber keratin.

Claim 9 (original): A molded article prepared from the polymer composite according to claim 1.

Claim 10 (new): The polymer composite according to claim 1, wherein said keratin is present in an amount from about 0.1 weight percent to about 99.9 weight percent.

Claim 11 (new): The polymer composite according to claim 6, wherein said polymer composite is made at a temperature below the degradation temperature of said keratin or said

polymer composite is made in a solvent in which said polymer is soluble and said keratin is insoluble.

Claim 12 (new): The polymer composite according to claim 11 wherein said polymer composite is made at a temperature below about 200°C.

Claim 13 (new): The polymer composite according to claim 6, wherein said keratin has a molecular weight of about 10,700 g/mol.